

OXYRHOPUS TRIGEMINUS Duméril and Bibron THE TYPE OF
ERYTHROXYRHOPUS gen. nov.

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The classification contained in the *Catalogue of the Snakes in the British Museum* will unquestionably remain our standard for years to come. Nevertheless, when the suborder Serpentes has been critically examined from the standpoint of comparative anatomy along the lines suggested by Cope, there must be changes.

When dissecting serpents, especially those that are now placed in the larger genera, one sees species grouped that really should be separated. In recording unusual structural conditions, in suggesting new generic names, or in the regrouping of species, the following routine will be observed: The specimens examined will be recorded under the exact specific name employed in the *Catalogue of the Snakes in the British Museum*, and where a new generic name is established, it will be proposed provisionally, not for immediate use, but awaiting a thorough examination of the subfamily to which it belongs.

In studying *Oxyrhopus trigeminus* (Duméril and Bibron) it was found to possess an hemipenis without calyces and with an apical disk. This is a condition widely different from *Oxyrhopus clalia* (Daudin) and *Oxyrhopus petolarius* (Linnæus), in which the organ has calyces and is without a disk. Two opisthoglyph serpents were previously known with a similar organ. These, *Erythrolamprus æsculapii* (Linnæus) and *Philodryas elegans* (Tschudi), have been grouped by Cope in the subfamily of *Erythrolamprinae*.¹ *Oxyrhopus trigeminus* (Duméril and Bibron) is believed to be worthy of generic recognition. On the other hand, to alter a name well-established in literature from the time of Duméril and Bibron, should not be undertaken without grave necessity. In this case the necessity will only arise when the great majority of the *Dipsadomorphinae* have been examined anatomically, and one is in a position to propose a rearrangement of the species based upon a far wider knowledge of their organs than is at present possessed.

¹1900: Cope, *Croc., Liz. and Sn. of No. Am.*, p. 1091.

Oxyrhopus trigemius Duméril and Bibron.

1896: Boulenger, Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus., III, p. 104.

Field No. 4,425. Ceara Mirim, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil. Female; total length 340 mm., tail 55.

Scales in 19 rows anteriorly and 17 rows posteriorly; the IV row suppressed at the level of the 126th gastrostege on the right and the 127th on the left; smooth, with two apical pits; the scales in the outer row are usually without pits, when present there is one situated in the upper half of the scale and near the apex. Gastrosteges 191; anal entire; urosteges 60 pairs. One præ- and two postoculars; temporals 2-3; eight upper labials, the fourth and fifth entering the eye. The pupil is very narrow and vertical.

Anatomy.—The maxilla bears ten teeth and two enlarged fangs.

Color.—There are thirteen sets of bands on the body and three on the tail, the tip is black.

Field No. 4,449. Papery, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil. Female; body 471 mm., tail docked.

Scales in 19 rows anteriorly and 17 rows posteriorly; the IV row is suppressed at the level of the 120th gastrostege on the right and on the 122d on left side. Gastrosteges 183; anal entire. One præ- and two postoculars temporals 2-3; eight upper labials, the fourth and the fifth entering the eye.

Field No. 4,402. Papery, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil. Male; body length 437 mm., tail docked.

Scales in 19 rows anteriorly and in 17 rows posteriorly; the IV row is suppressed at the level of the 118th gastrostege on the right and at the 119th on the left side. Gastrosteges 182; anal entire. One præ- and two postoculars; temporals 2-3; eight upper labials, the fourth and fifth entering the eye.

Anatomy.—The total length of the hemipenis is 22 mm., it is divided, the length of each quadripennis being 9 mm., the tip reaches to the 12th urostege. The sulcus is divided 6 mm. from the base; each quadripennis terminates in a cordiform apical disk; from the base to the bifurcation of the sulcus the organ is plicate, from this point to the disk it is spinous. A rudiment of a lung. The heart apex is at the level of the 41st gastrostege. Anteriorly the liver is divided into two lobes, the one on the right side is 8 mm., that on the left 24 mm. long; the tip of the longer lobe is at the level of the 51st gastrostege.

ERYTHROXYRHOPUS new genus.

Hypapophyses absent in the posterior dorsal vertebrae. Scales smooth with two apical pits; in species with 19 rows anteriorly reduced to 17 rows posteriorly the IV row is the one that becomes suppressed. Head distinct. Pupil vertical. Maxillary teeth about 11 subequal, a short space between them and the two fangs which are behind the eye; anterior mandibular teeth enlarged. A rudimentary lung. Hemipenis and sulcus divided, spinous with an apical disk at the termination of each ramus of the organ.

Type species of this genus is now known as *Oxyrhopus trigeminus* (Duméril and Bibron); it occurs in the Guianas and Brazil.

The position of this genus in Cope's classification would be in the *Erythrolamprinae*.

This subfamily of the *Dipsadidae* may be defined as glyphodonta with the hypapophyses of vertebrae anterior only, hemipenis and sulcus divided, spinous, not calyculate, an apical disk.

There are three genera all neotropical:—

Hemipenis and sulcus bifurcate.

Disk at the extremity of the sulcus.

Pupil round ERYTHROLAMPRUS Boie.

Pupil vertical ERYTHROXYRHOPUS Thompson.

Disk at one side of the sulcus.

Hemipenis with spines in two bands only . . . LYGOPHIS Tschudi.

The specimens from which the foregoing observations were made are in the Department of Zoology at Leland Stanford Junior University.

U. S. F. S. Albatross, Dec. 25, 1912.